

**HARRY J. TUTUNJIAN**  
Mayor



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## **City Enters Into Agreement With Social Services**

For Immediate Release  
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(January 30, 2004- TROY) Mayor Harry Tutunjian announced Friday that the City of Troy has entered into an agreement with Rensselaer County Social Services for labor employment from residents receiving public assistance.

Tutunjian explained that the workers involved in the program are required to work a certain number of hours each week at the prevailing wage in return for public assistance and Medicaid. The contract was signed earlier this month, and the city has received the help of four individuals in the Department of Public Works. The city is hopeful to receive the help of 12 to 15 workers when the program is at full strength.

"This agreement between the city and county is simply stated- a no-brainer," Tutunjian said. "The help we are receiving comes at no additional cost to the taxpayers, yet it provides needed help on the streets that residents will be happy to see. In return the persons involved in this program gain valuable work experience while they are on public assistance."

Tutunjian said if all goes well, there is a possibility the people who will work for the city, and show the ability to get the job done, could be hired full-time in the future. Rensselaer County Social Services Commissioner John Beaudoin said typically people in the program work 15-18 hours per week.

"One of my campaign pledges was to find innovative ways to get the job done," Tutunjian said. "Finding able-bodied people to work for us at no cost to the taxpayers is one of those ways."

Rensselaer County Executive Kathleen Jimino praised the city for reaching out to the county and applauded the effort for the effect it will have on two different parties.

"I am pleased that Troy is interested in pursuing this program that will help eligible able-bodied adults who receive public assistance acquire gainful employment experience," Jimino said. "It is an important step toward putting those individuals on the right path of dignity and responsibility as productive members of their communities."